

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended to address formality issues. Claims 2, 3 and 5 include allowable subject matter. New claims 11-15 have been added. Claims 1-3, 5, 9 and 11-15 are pending in the application.

§ 112 Rejections

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to address formality issues. Claim 3 is now definite.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 1 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lightcap (US 6,241,616). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Lightcap is directed to a double telescoping drive shaft assembly 10. The assembly includes a drive shaft 12, an inner sleeve 14, and an outer sleeve 16. A universal joint 38 is attached at an outer end of the drive shaft 12 and a universal joint 36 is attached to an outer end of the outer sleeve 16. The universal joints 36, 38 each have two arms that protrude away from the shaft/sleeve and are spaced apart a distance sufficient for another universal joint (e.g., see universal joints 36, 38 in Figure 2 that are attached to the opposing ends of the shaft assembly 10).

Lightcap fails to disclose "a platform having a top surface and a bottom surface with a V-notch formed in the bottom surface and extending across said platform" as required by claim 1. The universal joint 38 attached to an end of the shaft 12 does not include a V-notch. The universal joint 38 includes a first portion (not specifically labeled) aligned perpendicular to an axis of the shaft 12, and two arms (not specifically labeled) extending from the first portion parallel to the shaft 12. The arms and first portion together do not define a V-shape. One skilled in the art would not consider the universal joint 38 as defining a V-shape.

Further, the shape defined by the universal joint 38 is not a notch formed in the bottom surface of a platform. Lightcap illustrates a circular shaped aperture formed in a side of the universal joint 38 that is facing away from the shaft 12 (viewable in FIGURES 5 and 6 of Lightcap). The aperture is open in a direction parallel to the axis of the shaft 12. However, this aperture is not a V-notch. Further, the arms of the universal joint 38 that are extending in a direction parallel to the shaft 12 are clearly elongate arms that do not result from a notch being formed in a bottom surface of a platform of the universal joint 38. Therefore, Lightcap fails to disclose every limitation of claim 1 and the claims that depend from it.

Furthermore, the drive shaft assembly disclosed by Lightcap is non-analogous art to the holding base system required by claim 1. The holding base system of the present application is intended for mounting an object onto a support surface such as a tubular frame or handlebar of an all-terrain-vehicle (ATV). The V-notch of the present application improves the functionality of the holding base system. The converging side surfaces of the V-notch make it possible to secure the base unit to tubular surfaces having different diameters or surface contours. For example, tubular surfaces with a small diameter would fit further towards the apex of the V-notch while tubular surfaces with a larger diameter would contact closer to the open end of the V-notch.

The universal joint 38 of the drive shaft assembly disclosed by Lightcap is configured for mounting to another universal joint in the drive train of a vehicle. The parallel arms of the universal joint 38 are designed specifically to function as a bendable joint in a drive train and cannot provide the same advantages provided by the V-notch of the present application. Applicants submit that Lightcap is non-analogous art and as a result one skilled in the art would not look to Lightcap for disclosure of features specific to a holding base system as required by claim 1. Thus, claims 1 and 9 are allowable for this additional reason.

New Claims

Claims 11-15 track the limitations of original claims 1-3, 5 and 9. Claim 11 recites that the V-notch includes converging side surfaces defined within the platform. The prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest such converging surfaces or side surfaces defined within a platform. Claim 11 also recites that an attachment device maintains the tubular surface in

contact with the converging side surfaces of the V-notch. The prior art of record also fails to disclose or suggest contact between a tubular surface and converging side surfaces of a V-notch. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 11-15 are allowable over the art of record.

In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance. If a phone conference would be helpful in resolving any further issues related to this matter, please contact Applicants' attorney listed below at 612-371-5387.

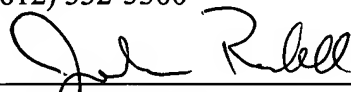
Respectfully submitted,



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